

REMARKS

Applicants submit a Petition and Fee for a One-Month Extension of Time.

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for six (6) additional total claims and one (1) additional total independent claim.

Claims 1-26 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-20 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims 21 - 26 are added. Claims 1, 10, and 25-26 are independent.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during a personal interview on August 3, 2005. During the personal interview, Examiner Boswell agreed that the applied references do not teach or suggest the features of: 1) a rotation of a slide pin with respect to the cam member disengaging a projection on the slide pin from an engagement hole in the cam member (independent claims 25-26); and 2) a containing groove for an O-ring that communicates with a cam groove on a cam member (independent claims 1 and 10).

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Claims 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Liao reference. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rauchhaus reference in view of the Liao reference. Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Liao reference in view of the

Rauchhaus reference.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

In a first exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 10, is directed to a lock that includes a cam with a pair of engaging holes, a slide pin with a bifurcated structure that has elastic pieces that each include projections that each engage a corresponding one of the pair of engaging holes, and an O-ring in a containing groove on the cam. The containing groove communicates with a cam groove in the cam.

A second exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 26, is directed to a lock that includes a cam with a pair of engaging holes, and a slide pin with a bifurcated structure that includes elastic pieces that each have projections that each engage a corresponding one of the pair of engaging holes. Rotation of the slide pin with respect to the cam disengages the projections from the engagement holes.

Conventional locks include link levers that are fixed to corresponding slide pins. Thus, when a glove box that incorporates such a conventional lock is damaged, the slide pins cannot be easily removed from the link levers and it becomes impossible to reuse the slide pin.

Further, because it is impossible to remove the slide pins from the link levers, it becomes impossible to detach a housing containing the link lever and an operation handle from the glove box and it is, therefore, impossible to reuse the housing and operation handle.

Additionally, if a cylinder lock is provided at the housing, then it also becomes

impossible to reuse the cylinder lock unless the housing is destroyed.

Moreover, when the handle of a conventional lock is released the lock may emit an impact sound. Some conventional locks incorporate a buffer member which may be pasted onto the impacting regions. However, these buffer members may become worn and/or destroyed.

In stark contrast to these conventional locks, the present invention provides a lock where rotation of a slide pin with respect to a corresponding cam disengages a projection on the slide pin from the engagement holes in the cam. In this manner, when a glove box is destroyed the slide pin may be easily disengaged from the cam, for example, by merely rotating them relative to each other. Thereby allowing the slide pin, cam member, etc., to be reused and maintenance is significantly improved. (Page 8, lines 15-25).

In further contrast, to the conventional locks, the present invention provides a lock with an O-ring in a containing groove on a cam where the containing groove communicates with a cam groove in the cam. In this manner, the present invention provides an O-ring which provides a sliding resistance that restrains any impact noise. The O-ring is provided in a containing groove that communicates with the cam groove which, as a result, enables the cam member to be downsized.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Liao reference rejection

Regarding the rejection of claims 10-15, the Examiner alleges that the Liao reference teaches the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by the Liao reference.

As agreed by Examiner Boswell during the August 3, 2005, personal interview, the Liao reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention including a containing groove for an O-ring that communicates with a cam groove on a cam member, as recited by independent claim 10.

Therefore, the Liao reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 10-15.

B. The Liao reference in view of the Rauchhaus reference

Regarding the rejections of claims 1-9 and 16-20, the Examiner alleges that the Rauchhaus reference would have been combined with the Liao reference to form the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

As agreed by Examiner Boswell during the August 3, 2005, personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of independent claim 1 including a containing groove for an O-ring that communicates with a cam groove on a cam member.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-9 and 16-20.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the agreements reached during the personal interview on August 3, 2005, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-26, all

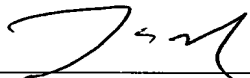
the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 8/2/05


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